



The NINA, PINTA & SANTA MARIA
ARRIVE PHILADELPHIA JUNE 13

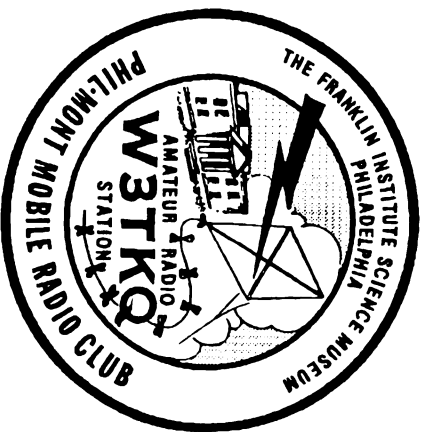


SHIPS AS SHOWN BY THEODORE DE BRY
1594

THE BLURB

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.
2113 EDGEHILL DRIVE, FURLONG, PA 18925



FIRST CLASS MAIL

VIRGINIA J. HARING
2113 EDGEHILL DRIVE
FURLONG PA

W3IIN
R
18925

is published monthly by, and for, the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC. whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. BLURB subscriptions are available to non-members for \$10.00 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the first non-holiday WEDNESDAY of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Use the Winter Street (north side) entrance.

ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

Amateur Radio License Examinations - the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum - doors close at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

CLUB INFORMATION

24-Hour Information Number at W3TKQ - (215) 448-1139
Repeater frequencies: 147.03 (Bucks County input requires 131.8Hz PL)
444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)
Simplex frequency: 147.51 MHz
Packet BBS frequency at W3TKQ (see future issue)
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB
W3RQZ - 1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA - Trustee W3VVS
W3TKQ - The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3PWG
ALL LICENSED AMATEURS ARE WELCOME TO OPERATE W3TKQ.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: N3FVI, Bill Popovic, 343 Lemonte Street, Philadelphia, PA 19128 (215) 487-9472
VICE PRESIDENT: N3GLH, Brad Swanson, 517 Cresheim Valley Road, Wynmoor, PA 19118 (215) 836-2475
SECRETARY: WU3I, Steve Hoch, 4638 Oakland Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124 (215) 535-8061
TREASURER: KB3IV, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215) 572-5238

DIRECTORS

W3BBB (92); KC2HX (92); AK2I (93); W3IIM (A); K3KUD (A); N2RM (93); W3RM (A)

COMMITTEES

Archives:	W3IIN	Emerg. Coord.:	W3BBB	Repeater:	W3BBB
BLURB:	W3IIM	Membership:	W3IIN	Special Events:	KA3EBC
Budget /Audit:	W3IIN	Net Control:	KB3IV	VE Program:	ND3Q
Directory:	WB3KOJ	Program:	N3GLH	TVI:	-----
DX:	-----	Publicity:	-----	W3TKQ:	W3PWG
Education:	N3FTZ	Refreshments:	N3FVI	Welcome:	-----

Special Liaison to The Franklin Institute Science Museum: AK2I

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215-794-7623

Artist: Sam Kunceovich

N3DHI, WB3KOJ

Publisher/Typist: W3IIM

DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the Bored of Directors' Meeting!

NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET (last session 6/16)
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	W3TKQ OPERATORS' NET



APPLE BYTES

Don Gordon, WB3KOJ

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Marge Kennedy - K3FXP
Sandy Lewis (XYL N3DGU)
- 04 Dick Moll - W3RM
Sue Matney Sadwin - N2CYA
- 05 Bud Heilbron - W3ISN
Rose Juliani (XYL W3DSG)
- 06 Chuck Hillman - K3QLY
Joe McQueen - W3PCX
- 09 Mike McLaughlin - WB3JHX
- 11 Wally Newell - K3JJO
*Marc Zaharchuk WA3CRM
- 12 Tony DiBenedetto K3GYK
Miriam Elmaleh K3UJI (XYL K3HIJ)
Ernie Juliani W3DSG
- 13 Barry Brenner N3FYH
- 19 Marie Rhoads (XYL ND3Q)
- 21 Lorraine Kovalchek (XYL AK2I)
Jim Rorick - N3GEN
Peter Tannenbaum - NA2E
- 23 Frank Cook - KB3CT
- 24 Walt Bardsley - K3OJA
- 26 *Rick Apfel - N3JFF
- 27 Sylvia Soss (XYL N3AN)
- 28 Betsy Reichert - N3EBE
- 30 Mike Lenczynski - KA3EIP

*= New member in 1992

HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join the ARRL or renew your current membership?
Remember: The ARRL is more than just a magazine subscription!
Help Phil-Mont by joining or renewing through the club.
Contact KB3IV for the details.

The Dark Side of the Earth

Perhaps you've seen those fancy wall clocks that present an ever-changing simulation of day and night over a map of the world. Unfortunately, their price tags can be equally fancy—typically in the four-figure range.

But GeoClock 4.41, a \$30 shareware program, enables your PC to generate the same type of image at a fraction of the price.

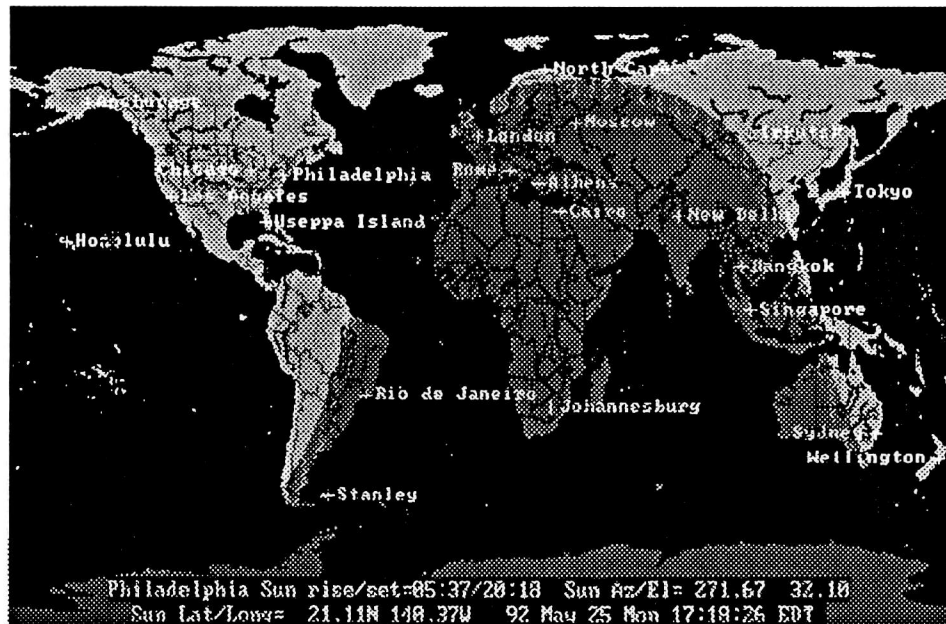
GeoClock displays the current time (based on your computer's internal clock) with a high-quality, full color map of the earth. The current sun position is displayed, as well as the various parts of the earth in sunlight, twilight and darkness. The software's EGA/VGA image is automatically updated every few seconds. Local sunrise and sunset, the sun's azimuth and elevation, and times around the world are also continuously displayed. GeoClock was created by Joseph Ahlgren of Arlington, VA.

The registered version of the program provides a zoom mode, distance measuring, city/time display functions, and more than 25 additional maps.

You can download GeoClock from library 6, "Software & Pictures," of the Ham-Net Forum [of compuserve] (GO HAM-NET), filename: GCLK44.ZIP.

In light of the way computer prices have fallen in recent months, you may just want to skip the wall clock and put a GeoClock dedicated PC in your living room!
Compuserve Magazine

[Editor's comment: this is a fabulous program which has an optional add-in module specifically designed for hams. PMRC members may download it directly from my BBS for the cost of a local phone call. The image below is an actual "screen capture" from my computer at the time I edited this article.]



The PREZ SEZ

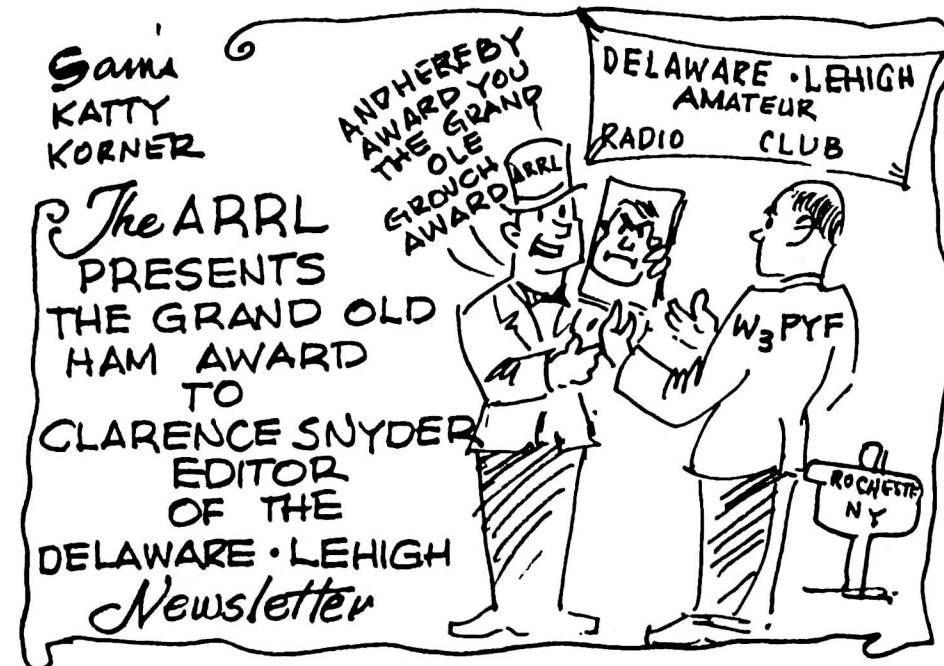
Bill Popovic, N3FVI



The next club meeting will be Wednesday night, 7:00PM. June 3. We will meet upstairs in the regular meeting room (502), then go down to the Omniverse Theater. The movie "Antartica" begins at 8:00PM, so you could stop and see W3TKQ on your way down.

The Franklin Institute is closed to the public on Wednesday nights, so we will have the entire theater to ourselves. Let's try to exceed last year's attendance, so talk it up and bring the family and some friends. I hope to see you on family night.

Phil-Mont Congratulates W3PYF!



LOOKAHEAD

June 3 **General Meeting Program:**
FAMILY NIGHT
at the Omniverse Theatre
June 4 License Examinations
June 7 Core States Bike Race
June 17 Directors' Meeting at N3GLH's
June 27-28 FIELD DAY

July 1 **General Meeting**
July 2 License Examinations
July 12 American Cancer Society Bikeathon
July 15 Directors' Meeting at W3BBB's

Aug 5 **General Meeting**
Aug 6 License Examinations
Aug 19 Directors' Meeting at
W3IIM & N's

Sep 2 **General Meeting**
Sep 3 License Examinations
Sep 16 Directors' Meeting at

HAMFESTS

Jul 26 TIMONIUM, MD
BRATS

Aug 9 WARRINGTON, PA
Mid-Atlantic ARC

Aug 16 ALLENTOWN AREA
Delaware Lehigh ARC

GEORGETOWN, DE
Sussex ARA

Aug 23 MULLICA HILL, NJ
Gloucester County ARC

Oct 4 GARDEN STATE RACETRACK
Packrats

Oct 18 BENSALEM, PA
Penn Wireless Assn.

Oct 25 DUBLIN, PA
R.F. Hill ARC

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring a their original license and one photocopy of it. All applicants, including children, must present positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The APRL VEC's 1992 test fee is \$5.40; there is no charge for a Novice test.

Monthly, 1st Thursday
The FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
(215) 482-0386
(215) 879-0505

Monthly, 3rd Thursday
BELLMAWR, NJ
Bill Helmatag
(609) 546-7710

Irregularly
BRYN MAWR
Bob Lees
(215) 265-6032

Monthly, 2nd Wednesday
HUNTINGDON VALLEY
Phil Isard, WF3W
(215) 938-7917

Monthly, 1st Thursday
LEVITTOWN
Dave Heller, K3TX
(215) 946-1040
(215) 736-3333

Monthly, 1st Monday (correction)
POTTSTOWN
Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764

Monthly, 3rd Wednesday
RICHBORO
Dave Munson, NM3K
(215) 788-7515

Monthly, 3rd Monday
TELFORD
Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764

Monthly, Last Saturday
UNIVERSITY OF PA
Jeff DePolo, WN3A
(215) 898-8538
(215) 386-7199

Odd Months, Last Wednesday
WARMINSTER
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494

More mail from SW Florida

I drove up to AES in Clearwater the day after you left and bought a Butternut "Butterfly" Beam, 20/10M. Unfortunately, 10 Meters has been completely dead to Philly on Sunday mornings and I have been very disappointed. I have worked 60 countries now.

Thank you for your nice comments and write up in the BLURB, which is an excellent publication. Also, thanks for the W3TKQ QSL card. I had worked them several times from here, however had not received one. [Try sending an SASE.-Ed] I am looking forward to reading the QST article when it is published. [Rumor has it that it will be in the JULY issue.]

I attended another meeting of the Sanibel Ham Emergency Unit last evening. They are forecasting that the police will move over to 800 MHz by the end of May, however, that may be optimistic. In any event, our new repeater should definitely be operational by your next visit down here. I will keep you posted. When the police make the frequency change, we (the Hams) will assume all of the 154 MHz equipment, including all of their HTs, etc! Also, I found out last night that they have a complete "Ham Shack" in their police dispatch center, located in City Hall. They have an older model Yaesu FT-101 transceiver, and the antenna is a long wire end-fed type that runs under the eaves along City Hall.

Best Regards

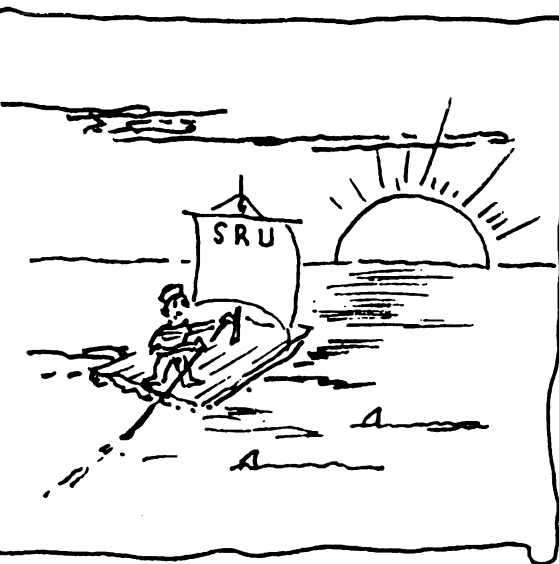
Gil, W3SRU/4

P.S. I worked Hal, W3AA, up in Clearwater on 10 Meters Sunday. He said that my new beam made the difference. The band was completely closed to Philly.

Editor's note: Gil recently upgraded to Advanced class—no doubt to allow him to join the "Mainliners' net." Congratulations, Gil.

**SOME
OTHER
CORNER**

GIL.. W3SRU
SAILS INTO
THE
SUNSET
WITH HIS NEW
YATCH
BOAT?



85TH MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS MAY

35 candidates pass 32 elements
9 new amateurs plus 7 upgrades

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman

Ted Lada, N3FTZ; George Starks, AA2FU; Al Tribble, W3STW

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
SCIENCE MUSEUM

For Information Call ND3Q at
(215) 482-0386 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



Sams
CORNER
ABAN?

IT LOOKS LIKE
GORDON
WB3KOJ AND
COMPUTER
HAS
A NEVER
ENDING
JOB

GORDON'S
COMPUTER
SERVICES



Let's see... is it W3WW, or maybe N3NN, or possibly W3NN or...

MINUTES

MAY GENERAL MEETING

Steve Hoch, WU3I, Secretary



N3FVI opened the 510th general meeting at 7:53 pm on May 6, 1992.

It was announced that the June general meeting would be family night in the Omniverse Theater and the show would be Antarctica. This will be a closed showing to PMRC only.

N3FVI announced the special events coming up: Corestates 6/7/92: contact N3FVI or KA3EBC to help out.

KB3IV reported that expenses outpaced income, but the club was still on budget. Member retention was good over the renewal period, and several new members were added over the last year.

AK2I reported the reception of a letter from Mr. Charles Weisong, of the R.L. Drake Company, confirming the donation of an R-8 Receiver. The radio was delivered the next day, and was on display at the general meeting. Jake also reported on the

receipt, from the Institute, of four new books for the station.

N3FVI reported that the training classes were completed, and that Ted, N3FTZ, and his class, would be attending the VE session the next night.

AK2I reported that the window/wall should be completed, and the signs should be installed by the June Meeting. The lock box, for the key to the station, is installed and working. ...Received from the ARRL a 75 lb box of materials for the National Traffic System. A class on the NTS system to be scheduled.

It was reported that a letter was received confirming the approval of a center-city input location.

The 50-50 was sold by N3AXJ drawn by W3IRS and won by W3LKI.

KB3IV introduced Dick Comly, N3AOG, the evening's speaker.

Sams
KATTY
KORNER

A NET CONTROL
FOR THE
NET CONTROL
ON 5TH
SUNDAYS
FOR FORGETFUL
NET CONTROLLERS,
MIGHT COME IN HANDY

NET CONTROL
5TH SUNDAY
W3BBB



MINUTES

Steve Hoch, WU3I, Secretary

APRIL DIRECTORS' MEETING

The Meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm at the home of N3GLH. In attendance W3s BBB, RM, IIM, IIN, N3DHI, WU3I, N3GLH, and K3KUD. N3GLH called the meeting to order in N3FVI's absence.

KB3IV reported that the income out-paced expenses for the period from the general meeting to the directors' meeting.

W3BBB reported that the test at the Southampton site was successful—installation of the off-site link to follow *[Radio-Furlong will be moved to Southampton-Ed]*. KB3IV made a request for a PL tone on the output of the UHF transmitter. W3BBB said this was simply turning it on.

W3IIN reported that there were four new members to vote on; they are: Robert Wilcox, N3LIN; Conway Yee, N2JWQ; Rick Apfel, N2JFF; and Bob Nicotera, KB2ERL. WU3I made the motion to accept; W3RM seconded; the vote was unanimous.

WU3I reported on W3TKQ in the absence of AK2I. The new BBS is up and

running, and instruction to its access will appear in a future issue of *The BLURB*. A discussion of W3TKQ's renovation and future was had.

NEW BUSINESS

W3BBB reported the availability of an SCOM controller model 5K for \$150.00, for the uhf repeater. N3GLH made the motion to purchase the controller, K3KUD seconded, the vote was unanimous.

K3KUD reported that W3YLT was on-board as A Volunteer Consulting Engineer.

N3DHI reported that MO-COM was alive and well, and had been painted, and had the body work done. IT LOOKS MAH-VELOUS.

It was brought to the secretary's attention that he slighted one of our guest speakers by not acknowledging his production at our March General Meeting. My apologies to Rick Spencer, N3DHI for this Fax Paus [*faux pas—if you're gonna use big words, get a dictionary!—Ed*].

At 9:48 K3KUD made the motion to close the meeting. WU3I seconded.

Many thanks to Brad, N3GLH, and Vikye for hosting the meeting on short notice.

Replicas of the three ships that Columbus brought to the New World 500 years ago are due to visit East Coast cities this spring and summer.

Built in Spain according to 15th century methods, and with 15th century-type materials, the *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria* sailed from Europe and arrived in Miami, FL in February.

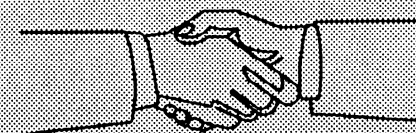
The latest information available indicates that they will visit Philadelphia June 13 through June 22.



NEWSLETTERS EXCHANGED

Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (BRATS)
Cherryville Repeater Association (NJ)
Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club (DLARC)
Delmont Radio Club
EASTLINK
Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club (MARC)
Mobile Sixers Radio Club
Penn Wireless Association
R F Hill Amateur Radio Club
Reading Radio Club
Sussex Amateur Radio Ass'n (SARA) (Delaware)
Tompkins County Amateur Radio Club (New York)
Warminster Amateur Radio Club
Worldradio Magazine

Exchanges with additional parties are welcomed.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

CALL: W3STW
NAME: Alfred Tribble
HANDLE: AI
CLASS: Extra
ADDRESS: 2848 Carter Road
Trevose, PA
19053
HOME PHONE: (215) 639-6771
BUSINESS PHONE:
OCCUPATION:
INTERESTS: W3TKQ

Sama
ONE MORE
CORNER

RUMOR HAS
IT...
JAKE IS
GOING TO
INSTALL A
SLOT MACHINE
AND
CARD TABLE



IS THAT WHY HE'S BEEN TALKING TO TRUMP?



THE W 3 T K Q

REPORT

by
Jake Kovalchek,
AK2I

The Art Department of The Franklin Institute has outdone itself on reproducing the W3TKQ logo as originally conceived by Sam Kuncewich. Lisa was at the station today (Tuesday, May 12), and did a marvelous job of preparing a 16 1/2" replica, all done in color, and practically hand painted the logo on the inside glass wall. Sam will be proud of that creation when I send him a photo of her finished work. Our special thanks to Lisa for doing an exceptional job on behalf of Phil-Mont and The Institute.

A few comments on the W3TKQ Operators' Net on the last Wednesday of the month: at this time we have a total of 41 registered volunteers for the operation of the station. That sounds like a big number, and were they all active, we would have little difficulty in presenting the station to the public during the entire opening period of The Institute. However not all are active, so the task still falls on about twenty seven active and concerned members. The one problem remains that I have not been able to solve: how to communicate special problems, instructions, plans, conditions and general concerns to that group of amateurs. We are the best communicators in the world, yet cannot devise a system capable of adequately keeping all members informed as to issues and problems. I thought the W3TKQ Operators' Net would serve that purpose, and yet, even at the best of times, we only had about 12 members participate. Some very fine suggestions have come from that group during those sessions, and yet I am frustrated as to how to get them all together for a roundtable.

What would motivate an already motivated group to spend an additional hour on the air?

Some upcoming happenings at W3TKQ

- A Free Service to the general public—send a message to your friend or loved one through the marvels of Packet Radio via the National Traffic System.
- Video switching on Amateur Television from several remote cameras from inside, as well as outside, the station to capture special events at the Institute.
- Installation of a brand new Mosely Pro 67A beam featuring a 45 foot element on 40 meters.
- While the BBS system works its magic—move off to another packet station to work HF packet as well as VHF packet at the SAME time.
- Listen to a truly remarkable receiver on the brand new R8 R.L. Drake receiver recently received from Mr. Charles Wyson, President and CEO of the Drake Company of Miamisburg, Ohio. A fantastic donation from one of the surviving American radio companies which is still concerned about amateur radio in the United States of America.

Watch us grow, world—with the fantastic people we have as volunteers we can't miss.

FCC takes more aggressive stance on compliance part 2

Since the Commission is now issuing whopping fines, we thought you would like to see a complete list of the price tags for Rule Violations or for each day of violation. This list was published by the FCC last August to "...aid our enforcement efforts by making clear in advance the likely consequences of violations."

Basically, the system allows the FCC to tack-on, or reduce, the amount of a stated monetary forfeiture amount. Admittedly, some of these violations do not apply to ham radio, but most do. Be forewarned!

BASE AMOUNTS OF FINES for private radio user violations.

<u>VIOLATION</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
Misrepresentation/Lack of Candor	\$8,000
Failure to comply with prescribed tower painting/lighting	8,000
Unauthorized substantial transfer of control	8,000
Violation of rules relating to distress/safety frequencies	8,000
False distress communications	8,000
Failure to permit station inspection	7,500
Violations of operator services requirements	7,500
Malicious interference	7,000
Failure to respond to FCC communications	7,000
Importation or marketing of unauthorized equipment	7,000
Exceeding power limits	5,000
Unauthorized emissions	5,000
Using unauthorized frequency	5,000
Transmission of indecent/obscene material	5,000
Unauthorized discontinuance of public coast station service	4,000
Use of unauthorized equipment	4,000
Failure to engage in required frequency coordination	4,000
Failure to file required forms or information	3,000
Failure to make required measurements or to conduct required monitoring	1,000
Failure to provide station ID	1,000
Unauthorized pro forma transfer of control	1,000
Failure to maintain required records	1,000
Miscellaneous violations	500
Ship radio violations - (vessel owner)	5,000
(vessel master)	1,000
Great Lakes Agreement violations - (owner)	500
(master)	100

UPWARD ADJUSTMENT CRITERIA

Egregious (flagrant/deplorable) misconduct	50-90%
Ability to pay/relative disincentive	50-90%
Intentional violation	50-90%
Substantial resulting harm	40-70%
Prior violations	40-70%
Substantial economic gain from violation	20-50%
Repeated or continuous violation	Up to maximum

DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT CRITERIA

Minor violation	50-90%
Good faith or voluntary disclosure	30-60%
History of overall compliance	20-50%
Inability to pay	Varies

[Source: FCC Policy Statement. 8/1/91, FCC 91-217]
BRATS "The Milliwatt"

243 N. Cranor Ave.
DeLand, FL 32720
May 11, 1992

Mr. Jack Haring, W3IIM
Editor, The BLURB
2113 Edgehill Drive
Furlong, PA 18925

Dear Jack,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your May issue of **The BLURB**. It is an excellent publication; I find it interesting, very informative, and the cartoons are priceless.

I thank you and applaud your courage in publishing copies of my correspondence concerning the Coaxial Dipole Antenna. I say it took courage to publish my letter to the Naval Postgraduate School ARC, because as I look back on it, I'm a little shocked that I actually sent that letter—I now realize I came on rather strong. However, I have felt very strongly about that subject because over the years I've had to defend my position against it over and over again, especially K7UAE's claim of "1.5 to 2 dB gain over a dipole," and WA9PIV's claim that the coaxial stubs form a balun! When Armond Noble, N6WR, read the copy I sent to him, he called me on the phone and said, "Maaan, you'rrr meeeaaan!" But he then added he didn't think it was too strong, because it had to be strong to get their attention.

I'm not sure whether I got their attention or not, because I've had no reply from them. I do appreciate your reply, however, and I hope that the response from your club members is positive in that they understand that my only motive is to steer people away from antenna projects that are too good to be true. Too many antenna projects involve hazardous operations to accomplish what is hoped will provide utopian results, while in the end it often turns out that no one could tell the difference. This is the reasoning behind the title of Chapter 1 of my book, **REFLECTIONS**, "Too Low An SWR Can Kill You," which is explained at the end of the first paragraph on Page 1-3, "Such (antenna) modifications often involve hazardous climbing and precarious operations on a roof or tower, which can result in injuries, or even death. Let's kill SWR misconceptions—not ham operators."

Jack, I hope I've had your attention for the last few minutes, and thanks again for allowing me in.

Sincerely,

Walt
Walter Maxwell, W2DU

Editor's reply: I'm always glad to publish well-written and beautifully printed correspondence such as yours. Good luck in your quest to set straight the record. It's like trying to stop a chain letter once started—sort of like trying to stop the erroneous stories about the derivation of the word "HAM."

GETTING YOUR MESSAGE ACROSS

Jesse J. Leaf

Now you can contact home while out at sea without buying everything at the electronics store.

A large population of boatowners have long wanted to take advantage of the awesome power of modern communications technologies combined with the capabilities of satellite transmission. But the cost and on-board real estate needed for full-blown satellite communication has been either prohibi-

tive or not cost-effective. The answer has come in a new kind of communication technology called Inmarsat-C (formerly Standard-C), which opens the heavens to yachtsmen who need or want a scaled-down version of the larger Inmarsat-A.

Inmarsat-C uses the same network of earth stations and satellites as the A standard, but equipment on board is much smaller and much cheaper. The antenna is about the size of a football and is omni-directional—doesn't have to be aimed. The belowdecks electronics consist of a transceiver about the size of a VHF radio and, usually, a laptop computer. Printers can be used as well. The tradeoff is that the system transmits too slowly for real-time voice or data communication. This is a store-and-forward system—that is, data are transmitted in bursts (or "packets") via satellite to a land-based earth station which puts the message together and sends it via terrestrial telephone lines to the recipient. All this takes less time than it sounds, usually not as much as five min-

utes from start to finish.

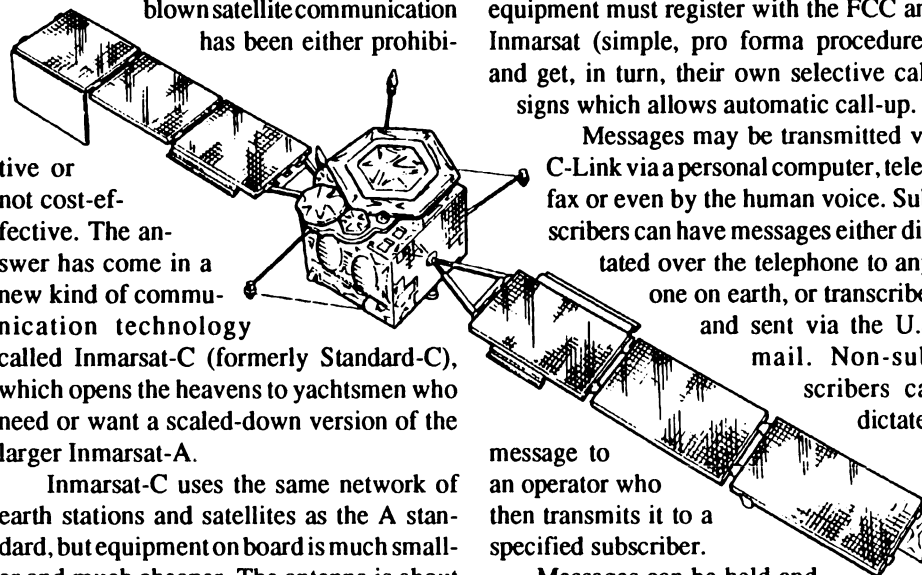
The Communications Satellite Corp. (Comsat), has put together a package of services, called C-Link, for boatowners and on-shore customers. The system has an array of value-added features. And because it is a system with an intervening linkage, shore-based customers need no special equipment except a credit card. Owners of Inmarsat-C equipment must register with the FCC and Inmarsat (simple, pro forma procedures) and get, in turn, their own selective call-signs which allows automatic call-up.

Messages may be transmitted via C-Link via a personal computer, telex, fax or even by the human voice. Subscribers can have messages either dictated over the telephone to anyone on earth, or transcribed and sent via the U.S. mail. Non-subscribers can dictate a

message to an operator who then transmits it to a specified subscriber.

Messages can be held and retrieved at will with the electronic mailbox feature. Advanced C-Link users have use of the X.400 service, which allows messages to be sent to any electronic mail system in the world that supports the protocol.

Inmarsat-C also performs a vital safety function as part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. Safety, information, communication via satellite—all available to nearly every boatowner. It may be time to let the cursor do the walking. Contact: Comsat, Dept. Y, 950 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024; (202) 863-6547; fax (202) 863-5305.



exam, and who had no desire to progress beyond 5 wpm code.

Transceivers? They were reserved for the little toys that one tried to get working on 440 mc using a single 6J6 tube; or for someone with enough money to buy an Elmac mobile rig with a VFO. The average guy had a receiver and a transmitter. Separate and distinct. If you were resourceful you could probably wind up with some surplus WW2 equipment, like an SCR-522 using an 829 for 2 meter AM, or a BC-779, or a Super Pro receiver made by Hammarlund for the military, that you could put on HF. Or better yet, a BC-610 transmitter using a pair of 250THs in the final, and modulated by a pair of 100THs. With the outboard tuner, the BC-610 was a class act.

Mobile operation? You needed a source of high voltage for the transmitter vacuum tubes, so you tried to latch-on to a surplus PE-101 or PE-103 dynamotor with enough #00 wire to reach your 6 volt battery under the hood. The mobile receiver could possibly have been a Gonset converter that used your car radio as an IF strip and power source. It sure was fun digging into the car radio trying to add a TNS (twin noise squelch) to get rid of mobile noise. Mine worked fine on ham radio, but my XYL always complained that the music on standard broadcast sounded like it was under water. Complain, complain.

FM? That was for experimenters. It was AM all the way... even on 2 meters... and later on 6 meters. Besides, most hams couldn't afford to buy. So build was the watchword. And who the devil wanted to get involved with limiters, discriminators and all that stuff. AM was easy, and CW was even easier. Let the TV repairmen worry about FM.

Speaking of TV, the 40s and the 50s is when the term TVI was born. In a channel 2 area, your 10 meter signal had better be clean or there would be a wipe-out. Most 10 meter ops in this area had overload and high end channel 6 interference to worry about. And only the courageous got on 6 meters, right next to the TV frequencies.

SSB? Not too many hams had SSB equipment or knew how to tune in SSB on AM equipment. On your receiver, if you didn't tune your BFO (beat frequency oscillator) and your frequency dial exactly right, the voice signal sounded like Donald Duck. In the late 50s you would be surprised at how many Donald Ducks were on 20 meters. Yet more guys were on AM than on SSB. It was "Give me a 6V6 modulated by a 6C5, and I'll work the world."

I had that line-up, but I never made it. I had better luck with a pair of 807s on 20 meter CW. I never was able to get that stylish new 6146 working—too many cathode pins! *RF Hill's "MHz TIMES"*

"DON'T TAILGATE—WAIT"—for the courtesy chime!

CLUB INFORMATION
24 Hour Information Number at W3TKQ
(215) 448-1139

W3TKQ Operators' Net
The last Wednesday of every month.
Don't Miss It!

The Good Old Days

W3ZC

We have all read about the early days of radio. There even have been excellent TV documentaries on the subject. It was an absolute marvel how some of the early hams were able to get on the air at all.

At a recent RF Hill club meeting, Frank Benner, W3BRU, brought in some old QSL cards, some dating back to the mid-1920s. Frank's not that old—most of the cards were from the estate of an SK. I think it's great that we admire, respect, and revel in their persistence and ingenuity. There aren't too many OMs from that era still hanging around. There are more survivors of the next generation, the 40s and 50s. You don't hear too much about how these guys managed, but they are part of our ham radio heritage, too.

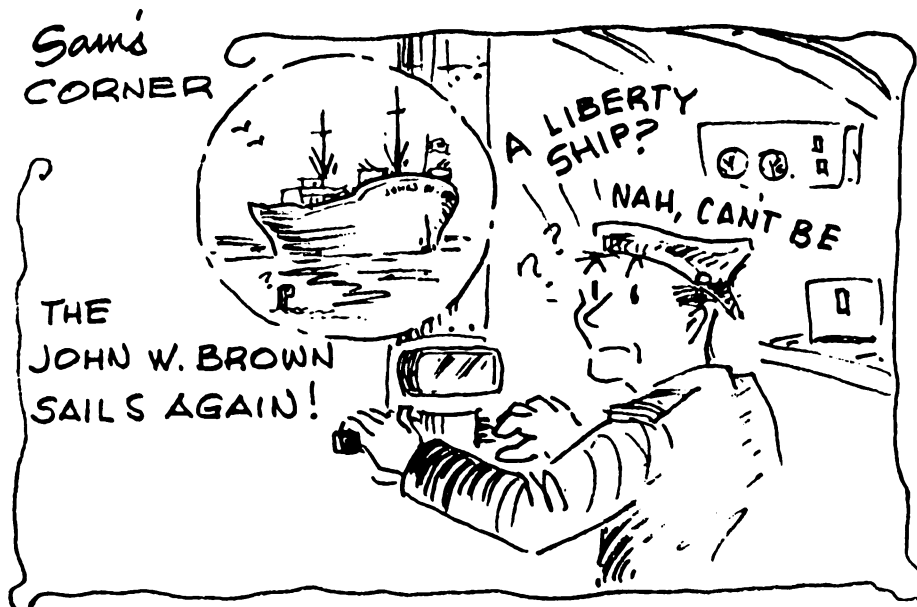
In the 40s and early 50s your ham license was either Class A (Extra), Class B (General), or Class C (Novice). Extras and Generals had the same privileges. Novices could work CW on HF, and phone on 2

meters and up. The Novice ticket was 1 year, non-renewable.

Repeaters? Forget it. Who had the money, desire, or expertise? Not many.

As far as 2 meters was concerned, the Novices owned it. It was their refuge from the dits and dahs; the lowest band that they could work phone. And AM was the thing. Unfortunately, the following scenario was quite common. A person would study the theory and the code at 5 wpm, get a Novice license, disdain the code, and move immediately to phone on 2 meters, spend 11 months talking on 2 meters, realize that 1 month remained on his license, furiously study the code in order to pass 13 wpm for a General license, fail, and then drift out of amateur radio.

Later in the 50s, the Technician class license was created to help retain the people who were technically competent, who liked the hobby enough to pass an elevated theory



1992

JUNE

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 W3PWG WU3I K3VXU <i>Hurricane Season Begins</i>	2 N3ALW W2GMA W3STW WT3P WU3I NS3Z CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM AK2I	3 WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 PM Meeting starts after 7:30	4 N3FVI AK2I LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 PM <i>sharp!</i>	5 WU3I W3LKI NS3Z	6 AG2H K3JJO K3TEF W3YLT 2
7 AA2FU N2JFF WB3JUA WT3X NS3Y KT3Z 2M NCS NA2E 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3PWG Core States' Bike Race	8 W3PWG WU3I K3VXU	9 N3ALW W2GMA W3STW WT3P WU3I NS3Z CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	10 WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC	11 N3FVI AK2I	12 WU3I W3LKI NS3Z	13 N3GMH AG2H K3TEF KA3WWK NS3Y
14 AA2FU N2JFF WB3JUA WT3X NS3Y KT3Z 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3AOA <i>Flag Day</i>	15 W3PWG WU3I K3VXU	16 N3ALW W2GMA W3STW WT3P WU3I NS3Z CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3ALW	17 WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC DIRECTORS' MEETING at N3GLH's	18 N3FVI AK2I	19 WU3I W3LKI NS3Z	20 N3GMH AG2H K3TEF KA3WWK NS3Y <i>Summer Solstice</i>
21 AA2FU N2JFF WB3JUA WT3X NS3Y KT3Z 2M NCS AK2I 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3RCE <i>Fathers' Day</i>	22 W3PWG WU3I K3VXU	23 N3ALW W2GMA W3STW WT3P WU3I NS3Z <i>Code Practice</i> <i>Net Resumes</i> <i>September 15</i>	24 WA3AUN N3AXJ K3PHC  OPERATORS' NET at 8 PM	25 N3FVI AK2I	26 WU3I W3LKI NS3Z	27 N3GMH AG2H K3TEF KA3WWK NS3Y <i>Field Day Begins</i>
28 AA2FU N2JFF WB3JUA WT3X NS3Y KT3Z 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS AK2I <i>Field Day Ends</i>	29 W3PWG WU3I K3VXU	30 N3ALW W2GMA W3STW WT3P WU3I NS3Z		<i>Promises are like a full moon; if they are not kept at once, they diminish day by day.</i>		

NOTICE!

JUNE 3 - GENERAL MEETING:
FAMILY NIGHT

AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE'S
OMNIVERSE THEATRE

Featuring an exclusive showing of
"ANTARCTICA"

Special 50% discounted ticket price of \$4.00 per person.
All family members and friends of Phil-Mont are welcome!

Use the Winter Street entrance. Refreshments, sale of tickets,
and a short meeting begin at 7pm in classroom 502.
Show starts at 8pm.

Reservations requested: contact AK2I or N3FVI.

W3TKQ
Operators' Net
Last Wednesday of
every month at 8pm!
147.03 repeater

Post this notice in your shack as a reminder.